MARVEL COMICS
RIP
$1.25 US
$1.75 CAN
71
UK 65p
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS
WOLVERINE
AND
GHOST RIDER
IN THE SHADOW OF
DEATHWATCH...

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS

Cover—JOHN BYRNE
TERRY KAVANAGH—Editor

KELLY CORVESE—Assistant Editor
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Page

WOLVERINE/ GHOST RIDER 1

Acts of Vengeance
Part 8 of 8

FINAL ACT"

The final battle. Deathwatch, his building in shambles, forces the hands of Wolverine and Ghost Rider...

Writer — HOWARD MACKIE
Penciler — MARK TEXEIRA
Inker — HARRY CANDELARIO
Letterer — CLEM ROBBINS
Colorist — GREGORY WRIGHT

Page

SHANNA 9

The Bush of Ghosts
Part 4 of 10

THINGS FALL APART"

Shanna and DuBose Wilson are hunting the murderous smuggler Guy Cross-Wallace. Tanzanian game warden Jeremy Mchele hunts the mysterious poachers who murdered his men. Photojournalist Eric Heller has followed a diamond smuggling trail into Tanzania. And somehow it's all linked by Cross-Wallace's dabblings in ancient African ritual.

Writer — GERARD JONES
Penciler — PAUL GULACY
Inker — GARY MARTIN
Letterer — JADE MOEDE
Colorist — STEVE MATTSSON

Page

DAREDEVIL 17

Redemption Song
Part 3 of 4

"JUST A SHOT AWAY"

A shadowy multi-national corporation named Octagon seems to be linked to the epidemic of rabid dogs loose in the city streets. Ellington has disappeared, along with the formula for a new drug that stimulates the latent psychic powers of the brain. He has tested it on only one human subject—himself!

Writer — SANDY PLUNKETT
Layouts — SANDY PLUNKETT
Pencils — DWAYNE TURNER
Inker — CHRIS IVY
Letterer — JANICE CHIANG
Colorist — SANDY PLUNKETT

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WARLOCK 25

"WARLOCK AND THE FLESHTONES"

He was never the smartest New Mutant, but considering Warlock was a techno-organic being from a far distant galaxy, he did his best by using his shape-shifting powers to fit in. (So what if his head was a helicopter propeller, his arms egg beaters, and his legs turned into a kangaroo's hind quarters...at least his heart was always in the right place.)

Writer — SCOTT LOBDELL
Penciler — SCOTT McDANIELS
Inker — HARRY CANDELARIO
Letterer — RICK PARKER
Colorist — NEL YOMTOV

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS Vol. 1, No. 71, 1991 (ISSN = 1044-7180) Published by MARVEL COMICS, Terry Stewart, President, Stan Lee, Publisher, Monage Holmes, Publication Director. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, N.Y. AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Publication Week: [illegible]

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ACTS OF VENGEANCE

PART 8

THE END

FEATURING WOLVERINE AND GHOST RIDER

WELL, THIS AS INTERESTING--
--READING LANGLEY'S THOUGHTS SHOWS THAT HE WAS BEHIND SOME ILL-BEGOTTEN SCHEME TO DRUM UP SOME BUSINESS ON HIS OWN.
OH, DO STOP SQUIRMING SO, LANGLEY THE PAIN WILL BE OVER WHEN I'M DONE WITH YOUR THOUGHTS.
WHERE WAS I? AH, YES, IT APPEARS THAT HE HAD TO BRANCH OUT ON HIS OWN BY ORCHESTRATING THE DEATHS OF BOTH WOLVERINE AND THIS BRASS FELLOW.
KRAK
BUT HE REALIZED THAT EVEN HIS TRIAD BROTHERS WERE NOT POWERFUL ENOUGH TO ELIMINATE THEM, SO HE TRIED TO MANIPULATE THE GHOST RIDER TO DO HIS DIRTY WORK.
THE MAN WAS A BUFFOON..
..MY SISTER SHOULD NEVER HAVE MARRIED HIM.
AND HE HAD SUCH A THIN SKULL..
NOW TO THE BUSINESS AT HAND..
WE HAVE A PROBLEM HERE. GRANTED IT WAS LANGLEY'S DOING, BUT IT IS NOW MY PROBLEM. FROM THE WAY YOU HAVE GONE THROUGH MY SECURITY SYSTEM, I DON'T THINK I CAN STOP ANY OF YOU.
LANGLEY SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN RIGHT ABOUT AT LEAST ONE THING, GHOST RIDER, IF YOU WANT THE TWO INNOCENTS THAT MY PEOPLE ARE HOLDING TO LIVE--
--KILL WOLVERINE AND BRASS!
NOT LIKELY, DEATHWATCH. GHOST RIDER IS OUR ALLY--

IT SEEMS AS THOUGH I MAY BE ABLE TO TURN A BUSINESS DEAL OUT OF THIS FIASCO AFTER ALL.
IT IS COMMONLY KNOWN THAT THE MANDARIN HAS DISMISSED THE AVENGERS FROM HIS SERVICE. SO IF THE GHOST RIDER ELIMINATES TWO OF HIS MOST HATED ENEMIES THEN...
...GHOST RIDER, I MAY EVEN HAVE A PLACE FOR YOU IN MY ORGANIZATION.

YOU BOTH MUST DIE SO THAT NO MORE INNOCENT BLOOD WILL BE SPILLED TONIGHT

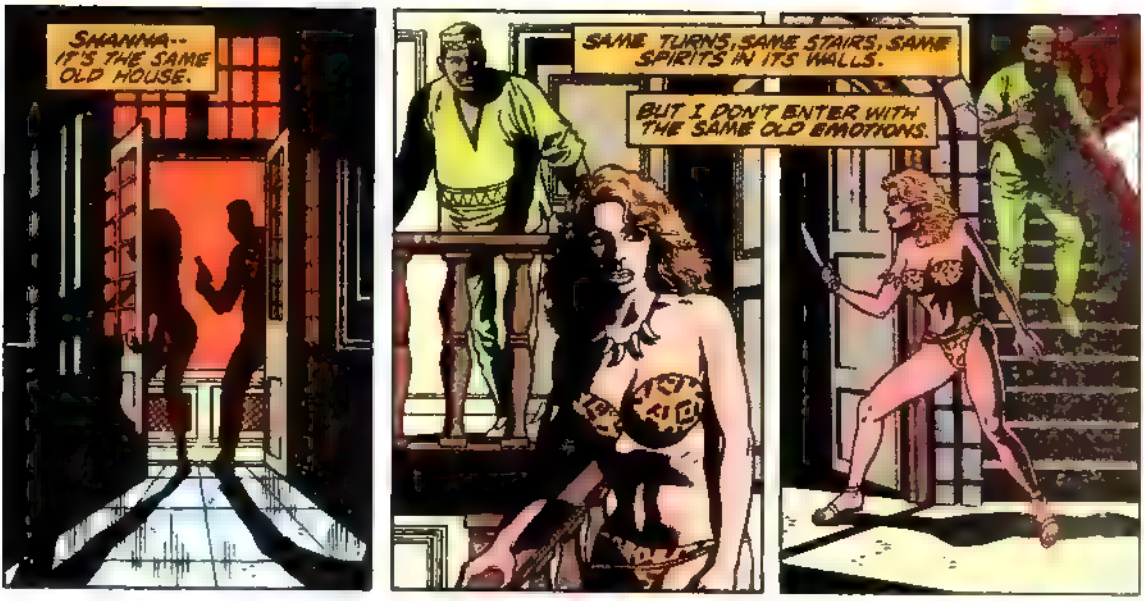
SNIKT
NO WAY
BRASS! COUGH! WHAT ARE YOU DOING? COUGH! LET GO OF MY HAND!
FWOMP
SEE COUGH! HE LET US GO!
YEAH... BUT HERE HE COMES--
--AGAIN!
STOP, GHOST RIDER! YOU'RE KILLING THEM!
I AM DOING WHAT MUST BE DONE TO PROTECT INNOCENT LIVES, YUYI.
POOM
KRASH
WHY DOESN'T HE FINISH US?
JUST HANG ON, BRASS, I THINK MAYBE HIS SKULL ISN'T AS EMPTY AS IT LOOKS!
JUST BE READY TO ACT FAST.
TTMMM

:GURG! REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED LAST TIME YOUR CLAWS MADE CONTACT WITH HIM?
YOU GOT ANY IDEAS?
NO.. BUT I'M SURE HE ISN'T GOING TO KILL US--
PTAKK

THEY FOUND US! KILL THEM!
BOOOM BUDDDDA
COULD'VE BEEN AN EASIER WAY TO GET US TO THE HOSTAGES, BUT YOU CAN'T ARGUE WITH THE RESULTS!
LET'S TAKE 'EM OUT, BRASS! AND WATCH THE KIDS!
I CAN HANDLE MY GUNS, YOU TAKE CARE OF YOUR OWN.
SCHWICK
RIGHT.
WAK
TCHUNK
PTOOM
VERY CLEVER, GHOST RIDER.
TO THROW MY SON AND WOLVERINE THROUGH WALLS UNTIL YOU UNCOVERED THE WHEREABOUTS OF BRIGITTE AND JACK.
CLEVER INDEED.

BRAGG, SHORT RACER! CLEVER INDEED!
YOU APPEAR TO HAVE OUTWITTED ME AGAIN. WHO WOULD HAVE GUESSED? NEEDLESS TO SAY, I AM NOT A GOOD LOSER. AS YOU CAN SEE, THIS BUILDING IS UNDER CONSTRUCTION ANYWAY. I REALLY CAN'T ALLOW ANY OF YOU TO LIVE...
...AND AS I'VE ALREADY STATED—I MAY BE ABLE TO GET SOME BUSINESS OUT OF THIS ANYWAY. I'M BLOWING THE TOP OF THIS BUILDING—NOW. GOODBYE!
ANYONE HAVE AN IDEA?
SECONDS LATER...
KERBLOOOM
WHAT ELSE YOU CARRY IN THAT BAG OF TRICKS OF YOURS, BRAGG?
THIS AND THAT.

I'M HEADING BACK TO MADRIPOOR. I MAY POP IN AND LOOK UP THE MANDARIN ON MY WAY. WHAT ABOUT YOU, BRASS?
WE MUST GET THESE TWO TO MEDICAL ATTENTION IMMEDIATELY.
WE MAY MEET UP AT THE MANDARIN'S. HE'S STILL ON MY LIST AND AFTER TONIGHT SO IS DEATHWATCH.
WHAT ABOUT YOU, GHOST RIDER?
DEATHWATCH STILL MUST PAY FOR ALL THE INNOCENT LIVES HE HAS TAKEN--
--AND HE WILL.
THE END



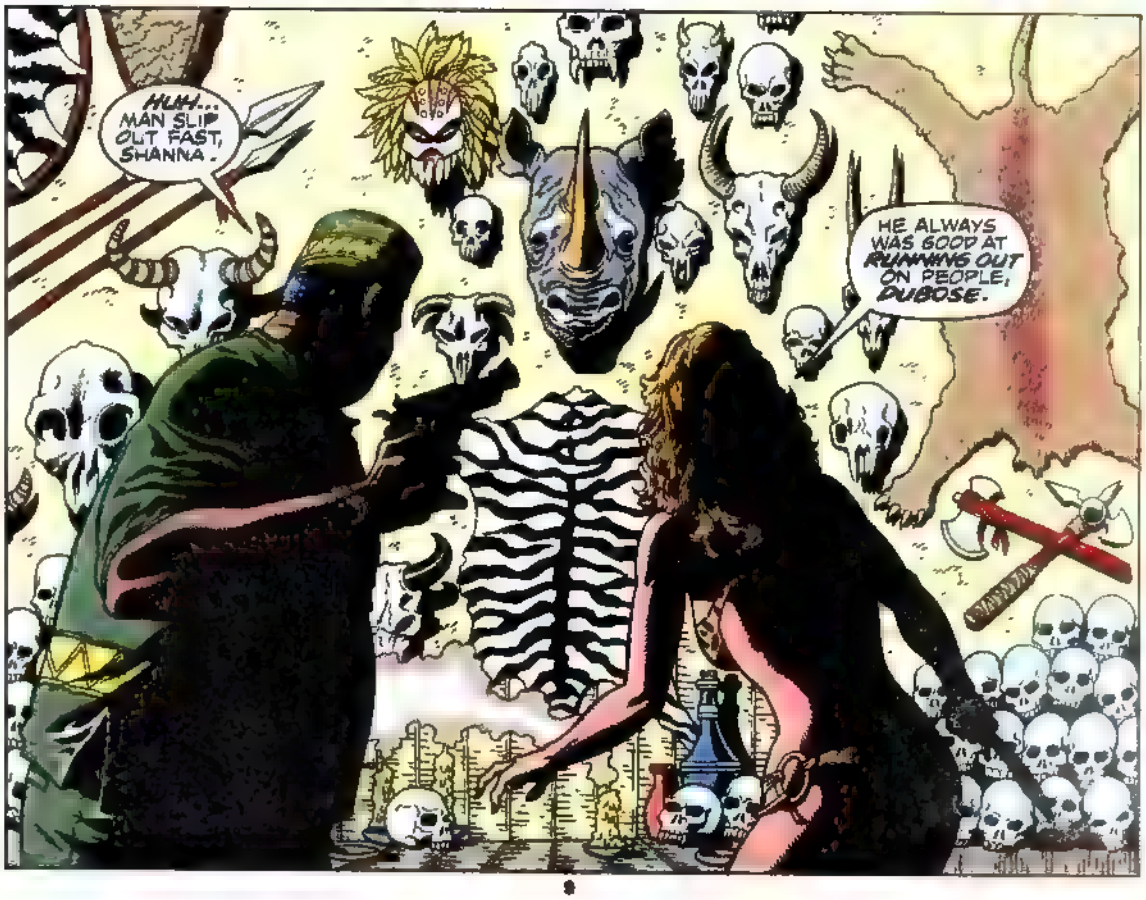
A BUSH OF GHOSTS

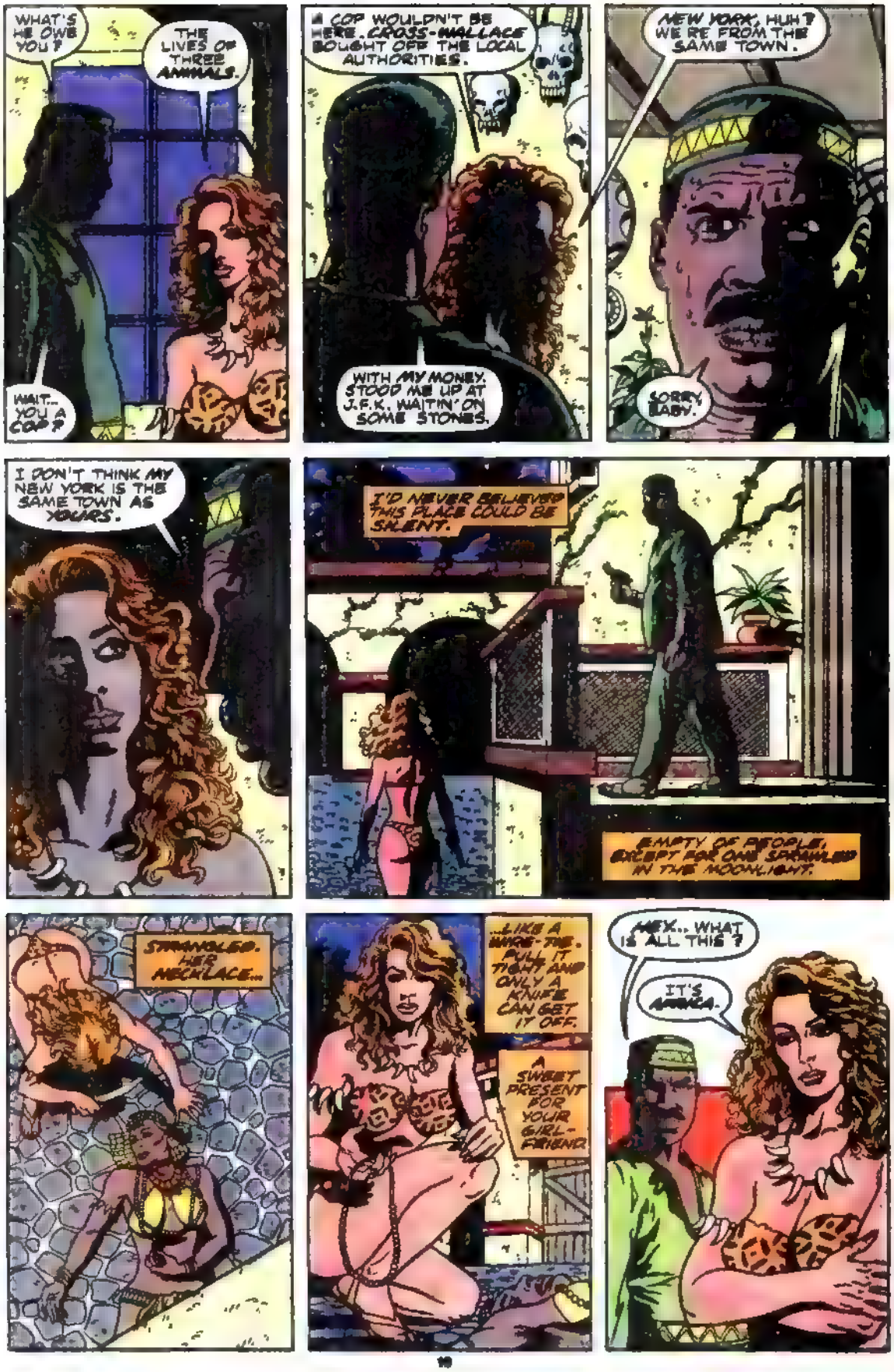
PART 4

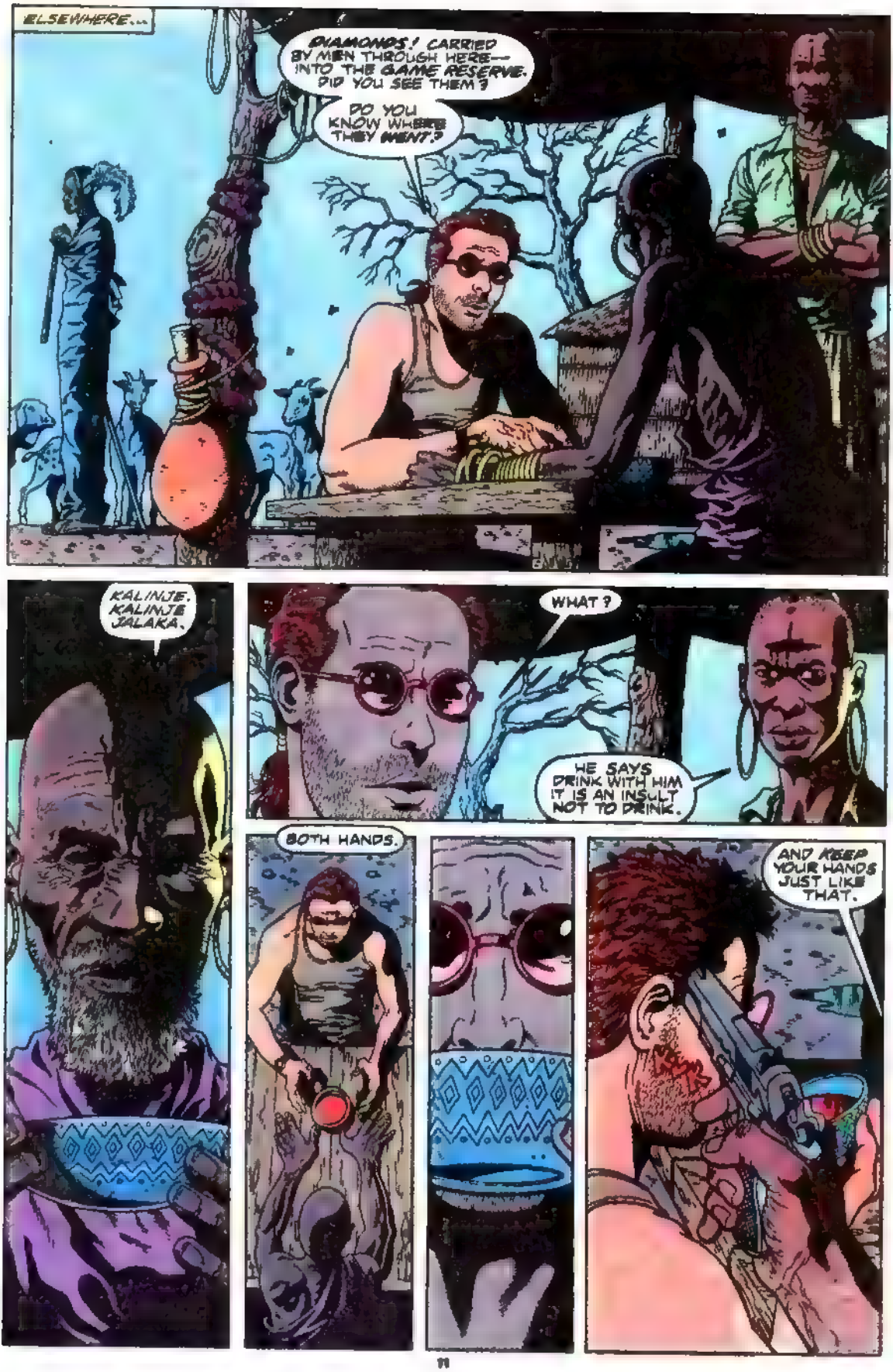
THINGS FALL APART

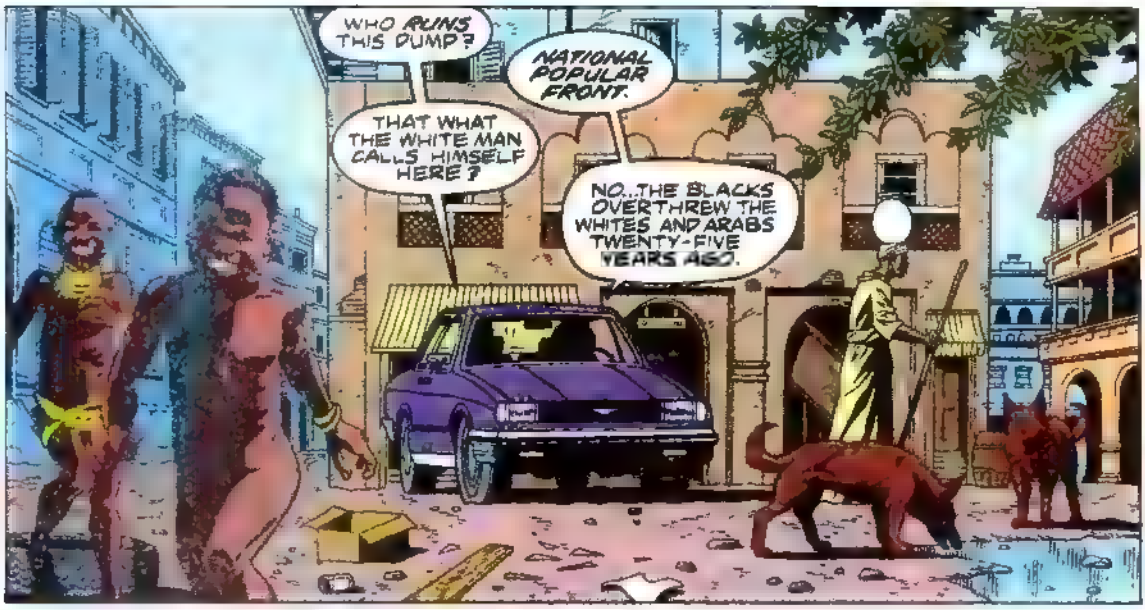
FEATURING

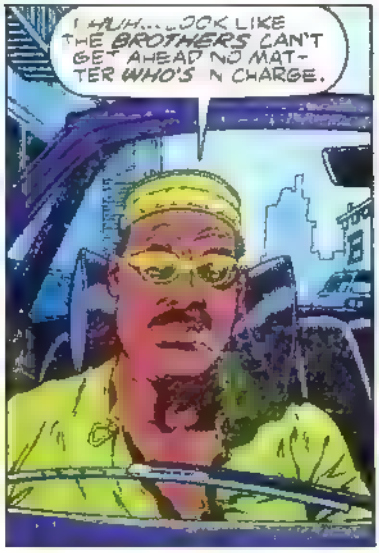
SHANNA THE SHE-DEVIL

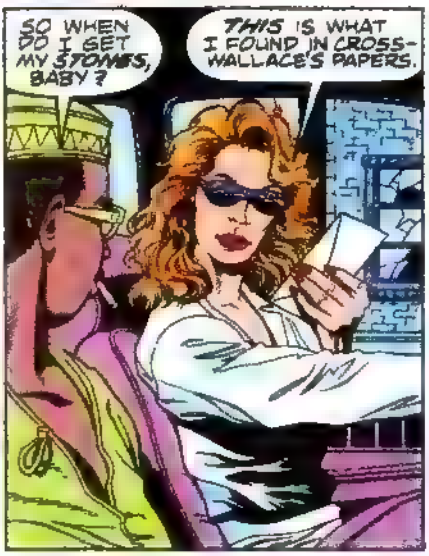



WHAT'S HE OWE YOU?
THE LIVES OF THREE ANIMALS.
WAIT... YOU A COP?
A COP WOULDN'T BE HERE. CROSS-WALLACE BOUGHT OFF THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES.
WITH MY MONEY. STOOD ME UP AT J.F.K. WAITIN' ON SOME STONES.
NEW YORK. HUH? WE'RE FROM THE SAME TOWN.
SORRY, BABY.
I DON'T THINK MY NEW YORK IS THE SAME TOWN AS YOURS.
I'D NEVER BELIEVED THIS PLACE COULD BE SILENT.
EMPTY OF PEOPLE, EXCEPT FOR ONE SPRAWLED IN THE MOONLIGHT.
STRANGLED. HER NECKLACE...
...LIKE A WIRE-TIE. PULL IT TIGHT AND ONLY A KNIFE CAN GET IT OFF.
A SWEET PRESENT FOR YOUR GIRL-FRIEND.
HEY... WHAT IS ALL THIS?
IT'S AMMA.


ELSEWHERE...
DIAMONDS! CARRIED BY MEN THROUGH HERE— INTO THE GAME RESERVE. DID YOU SEE THEM?
DO YOU KNOW WHERE THEY WENT?
KALINJE. KALINJE JALAKA.
WHAT?
HE SAYS DRINK WITH HIM. IT IS AN INSULT NOT TO DRINK.
BOTH HANDS.
AND KEEP YOUR HANDS JUST LIKE THAT.

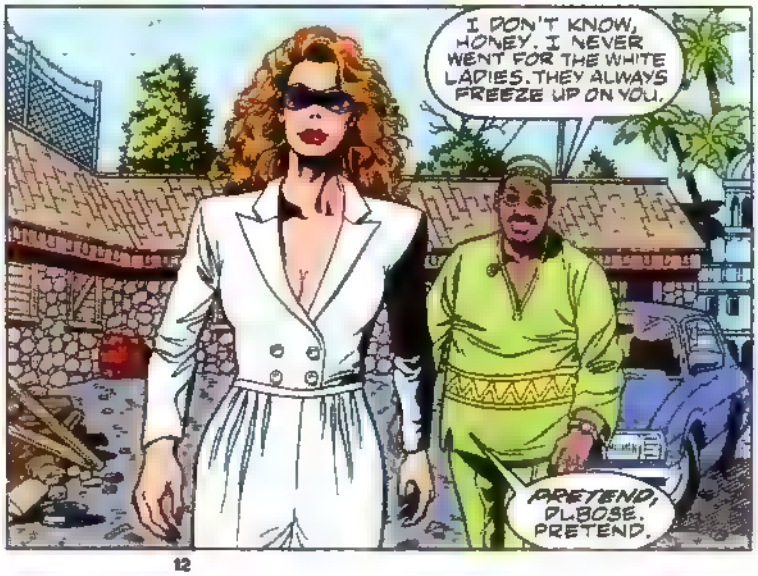

WHO RUNS THIS DUMP?
NATIONAL POPULAR FRONT.
THAT WHAT THE WHITE MAN CALLS HIMSELF HERE?
NO..THE BLACKS OVERTHREW THE WHITES AND ARABS TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO.


HUH....LOOK LIKE THE BROTHERS CAN'T GET AHEAD NO MATTER WHO'S N CHARGE.


SO WHEN DO I GET MY STONES, BABY?
THIS IS WHAT I FOUND IN CROSS-WALLACE'S PAPERS.

TRAVEL ORDERS FOR A DOZEN PROMINENT AFRICANS. ALL THROUGH AN UNREGISTERED AIR SERVICE HEADQUARTERED IN THIS SLUM.
AND WHAT DO WE DO?

YOU KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT. YOU RE MONSEUR K BUNGU OF RWANDA. YOU SPEAK ONLY FRENCH AND K NYARWANDU. I'LL DO THE TALK.NG.
I M JUST YOUR DUMB BLONDE MISTRESS. NO THREAT TO ANYONE

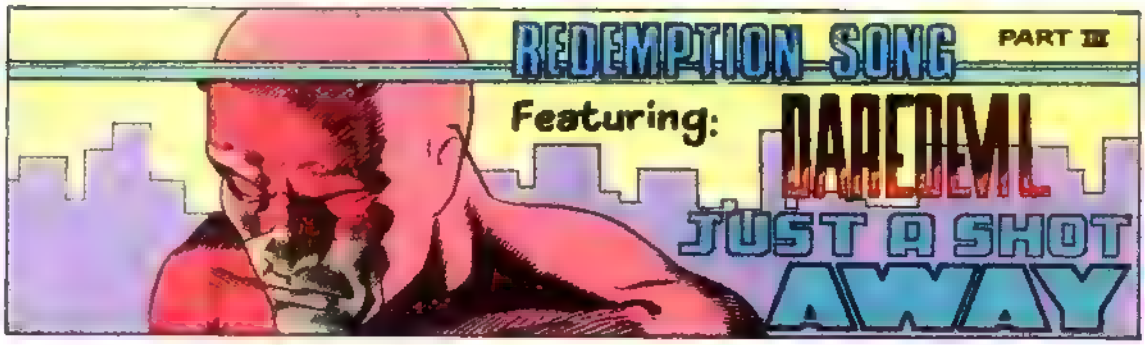

I DON'T KNOW, HONEY. I NEVER WENT FOR THE WHITE LADIES. THEY ALWAYS FREEZE UP ON YOU.
PRETEND, DUBOSE. PRETEND.

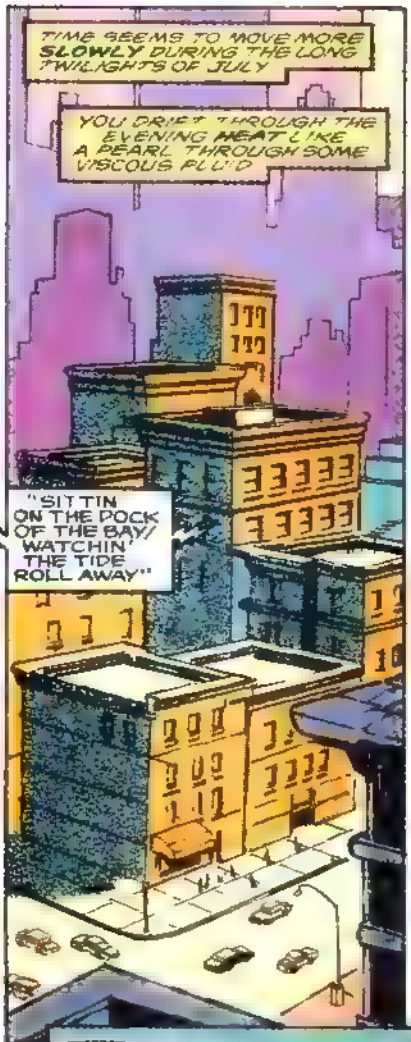
--PASSPORT --PRESSCARD-- YOU WANT MY UNION CARD TOO?
NO, MELLER. I BELIEVE YOU. YOU ARE A JOURNALIST.
AND YOU KNOW NOTHING OF ANY POACHERS?
I TOLD YOU, I'M TRACKING DIAMOND SMUGGLERS...
...MAYBE YOU CAN HELP ME.
I HAVE NO INTEREST IN DIAMONDS. ONLY IN THE POACHERS WHO KILLED MY MEN.
MAYBE THEY'RE CONNECTED.
WHY ELSE WOULD DIAMONDS BE SMUGGLED THROUGH A [redacted]?
I HAVE HEARD RUMORS ABOUT SMUGGLERS..
...IN A TRADING TOWN TO THE NORTH IN THE MOYOWOSI SWAMP. TRY THERE.
WAIT!
I DON'T KNOW THIS COUNTRY. I'VE GOT ENOUGH MONEY TO GET US BOTH THERE...
"... AND MAYBE I CAN HELP YOU FIND YOUR POACHERS."

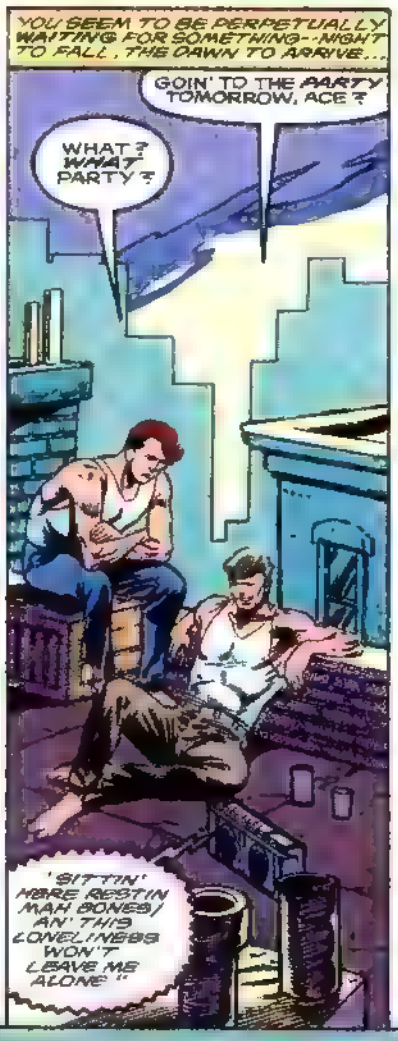
ERIC HELLER--NO ONE KNOWS ANYTHING AT FIRST. BUT THEIR POVERTY IS THEIR WEAK SPOT...
"...AND OUR COINS ARE OUR WEAPONS.
MEN CAME THROUGH HERE.
LIKE WARRIORS FROM THE STORY TIMES.
THEY GAVE US DIAMONDS TO BE QUIET.

AND WHERE DID THEY GO?
DOWN THE RIVER! DOWN THE RIVER!
WHAT'S DOWN THERE, JEREMY?
I DON'T KNOW.
VVVVVVVVVV
VVVVVVV
WHAT--?
SHANNA!
HELLO, JEREMY. FANCY MEETING YOU HERE.

"ARE YOU GOING OUR WAY...
...DOWN THE RIVER?
CONTINUES NEXT ISSUE...


REDEMPTION SONG
PART III
Featuring:
DAREDEVIL
JUST A SHOT AWAY

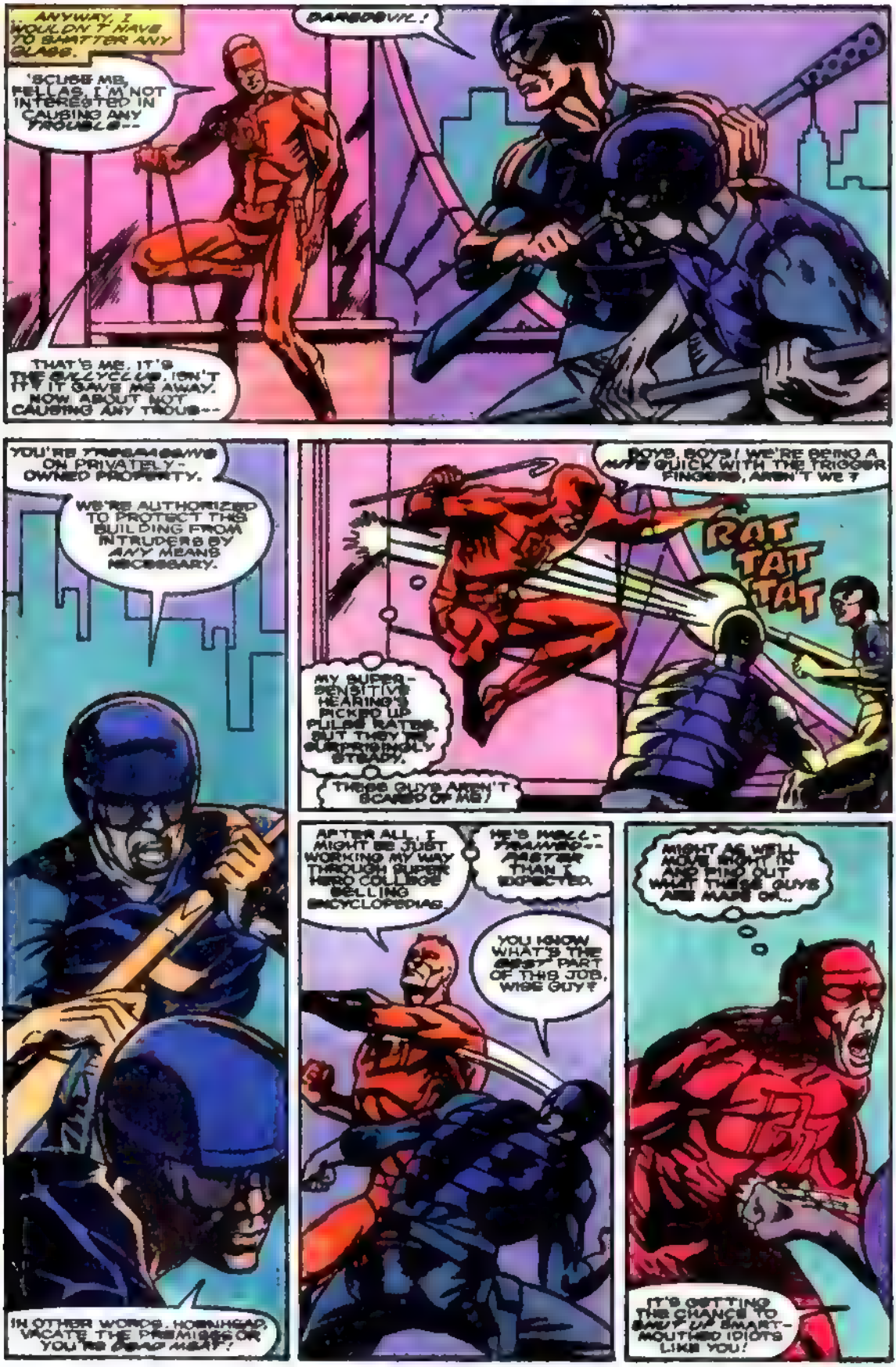

TIME SEEMS TO MOVE MORE SLOWLY DURING THE LONG TWILIGHTS OF JULY
YOU DRIFT THROUGH THE EVENING HEAT LIKE A PEARL THROUGH SOME VISCOUS FLUID
"SITTIN ON THE DOCK OF THE BAY/ WATCHIN' THE TIDE ROLL AWAY"

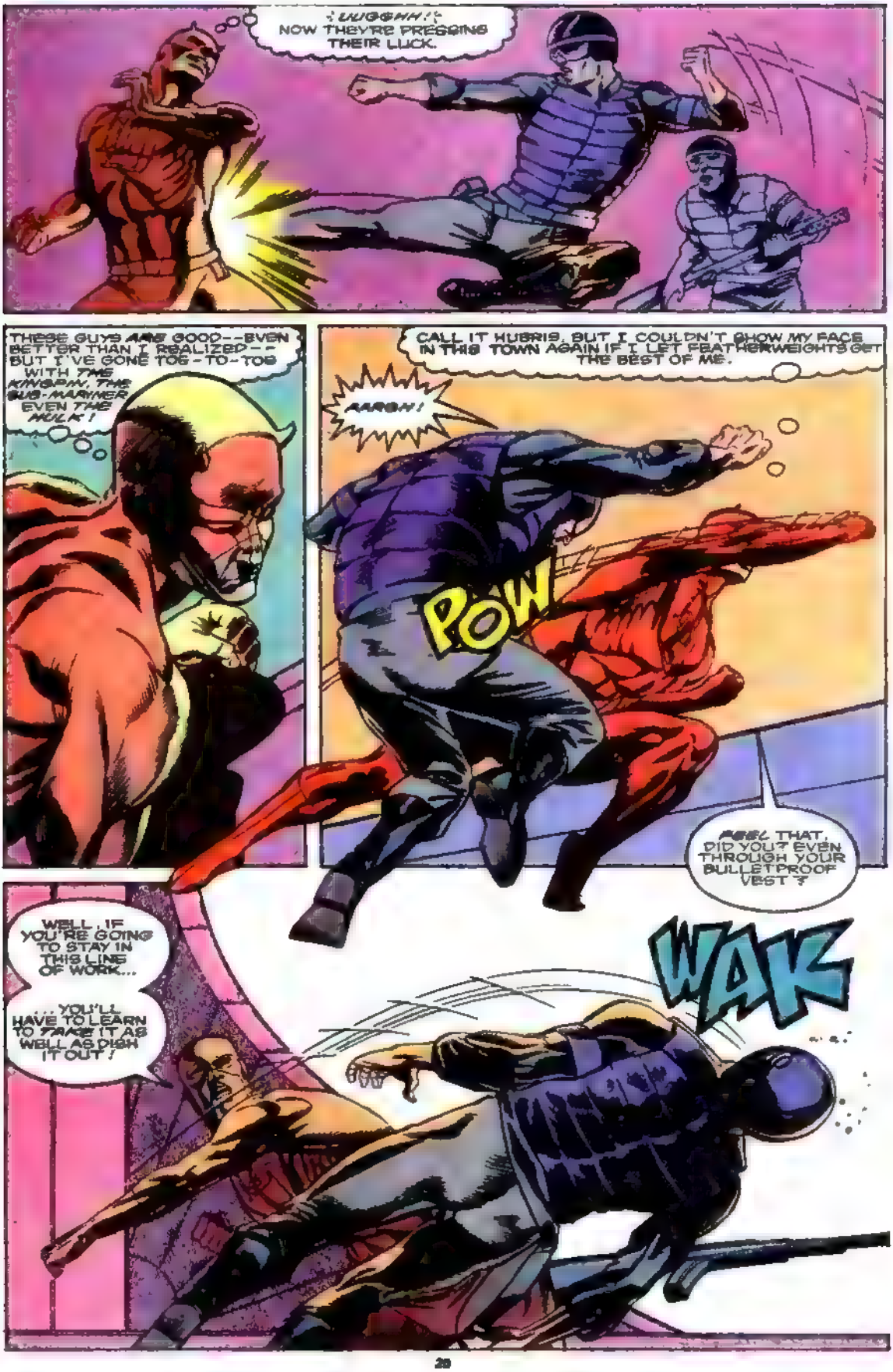

YOU SEEM TO BE PERPETUALLY WAITING FOR SOMETHING--NIGHT TO FALL, THE DAWN TO ARRIVE...
GOIN' TO THE PARTY TOMORROW, ACE?
WHAT? WHAT PARTY?
"SITTIN' HERE RESTIN MAH BONES/ AN' THIS LONELINESS WON'T LEAVE ME ALONE"

TOMORROW, DOWN BY THE RIVER AT SUNRISE. IT'S TRAVIS T.'S THING. SOME KINDA "E-VENT"
SO WHAT'S GONNA HAPPEN?
THAT I DON'T KNOW, BUT HIPP'S MY MAN!

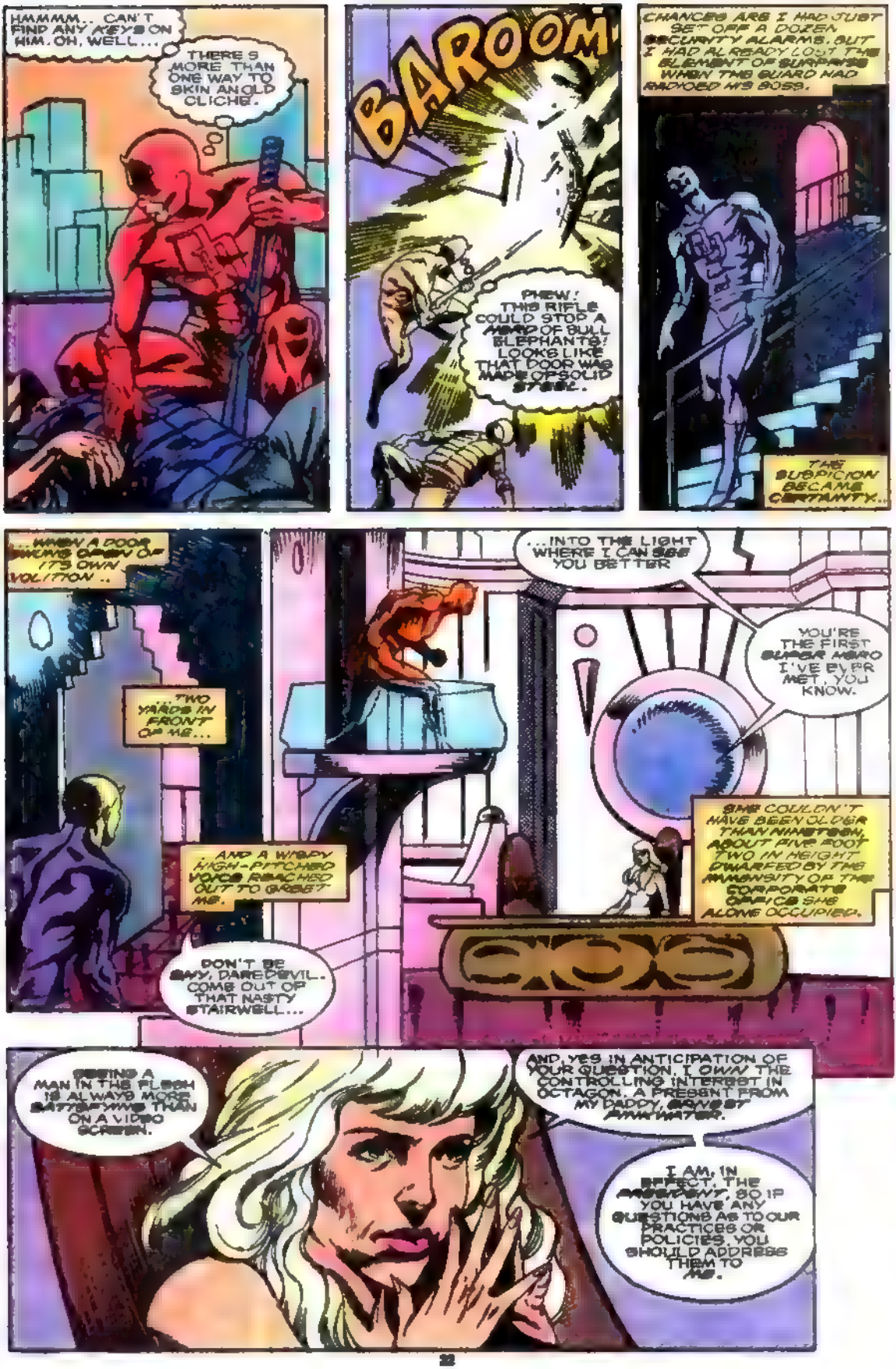
POLICE'VE BEEN TRYIN' TO CLOSE DOWN HIS RADIO STATION FOR WEEKS...
BUT HE'S ALWAYS ONE JUMP AHEAD. THAT'S HIPP!
IF HE SAYS THIS PARTY'S GONNA BE GOOD, WELL, I'M GONNA BE THERE!
"TWO THOUSAND MILES I ROAM/ JUST TO MAKE THIS DOCK MAH HOME/ SO AHM JUST SITTIN' ON THE DOCK OF THE BAY..."

"... WASTIN' TIME."
BUT AFTER A WHILE YOU GET TIRED OF WAIT'ING.
45 WALL ST. -- OCTAGON CORPORATE HQ ...
I SPENT THE DAY TRYING TO DIG UP INFORMATION ON OCTAGON...
...AND I'D GOTTEN NOTHING BUT A HANDFUL OF [illegible] WRITTEN BY THEIR PR DEPARTMENT
COULDN'T EVEN GET MY PROVERBIAL FOOT IN THE DOOR WHEN I APPROACHED THEM AS MY ALTER EGO, MATT MURDOCK...
...SOMETHING'S GOING ON BEHIND THOSE GAUDY MARBLE WALLS, AND IT STINKS.
ELLINGTON'S STORY INDICATES THAT OCTAGON BEARS A LARGE PART OF THE BLAME FOR THE DEATHS OF THREE OF THEIR SCIENTISTS.
I'M NOT GOING TO LET SOME OVERPAID ATTORNEY STOP ME FROM INVESTIGATING FURTHER.
THERE WAS A HELIPORT ON THE 60TH FLOOR OF THE NORTH TOWER. TWO SECURITY GUARDS STOOD OUTSIDE, RIGID AS STATUES.
IT SEEMED LIKE THE EASIEST WAY IN.

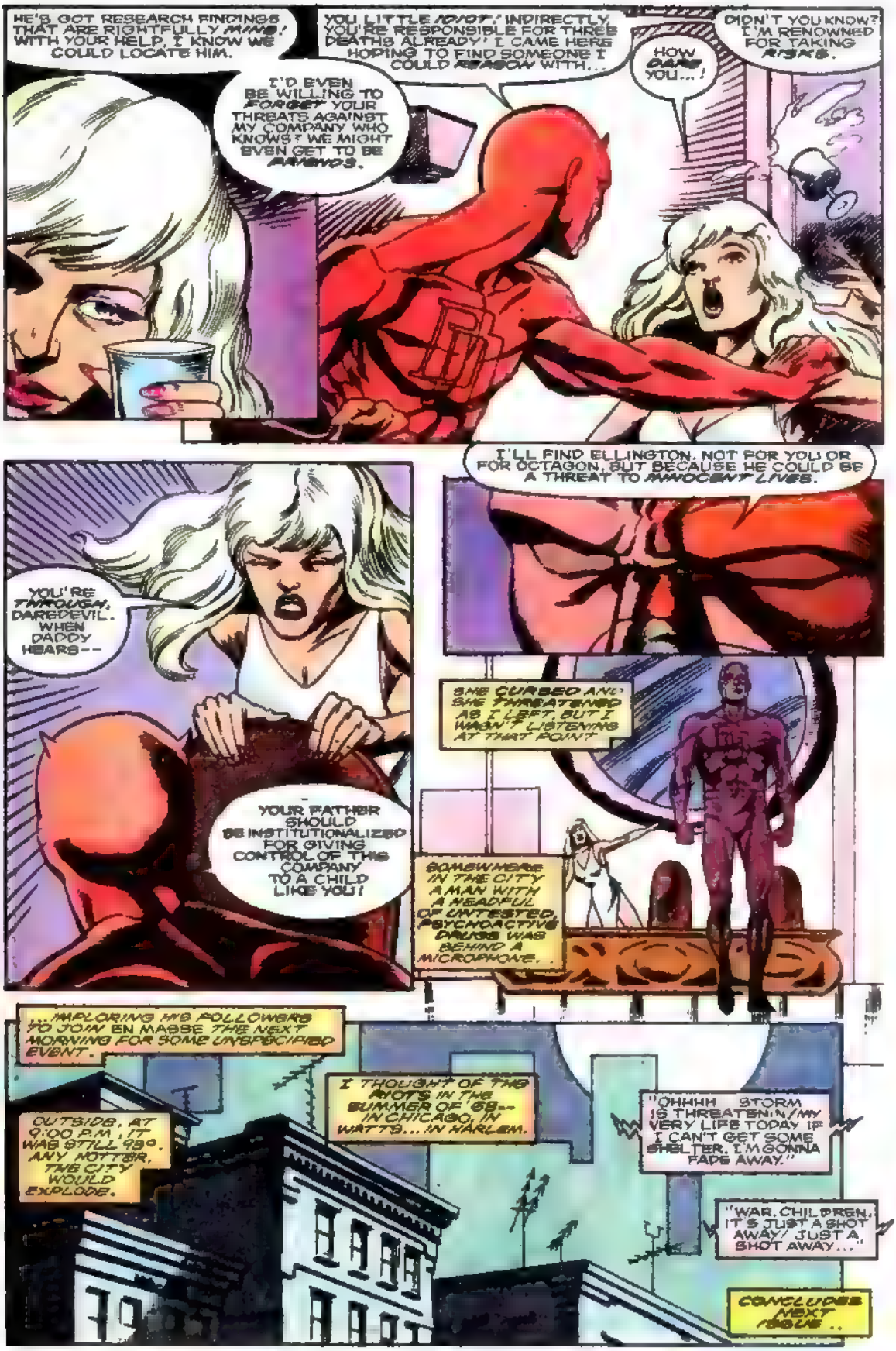

ANYWAY, I WOULDN'T HAVE TO SHATTER ANY GLASS.
DAREDEVIL!
'SCUSE ME, FELLAS, I'M NOT INTERESTED IN CAUSING ANY TROUBLE--
THAT'S ME, IT'S THE BULLYCLUB. ISN'T IT? IT GAVE ME AWAY. NOW ABOUT NOT CAUSING ANY TROUB--
YOU'RE TRESPASSING ON PRIVATELY-OWNED PROPERTY.
WE'RE AUTHORIZED TO PROTECT THIS BUILDING FROM INTRUDERS BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY.
IN OTHER WORDS, HORNHEAD, VACATE THE PREMISES OR YOU'RE DEAD MEAT!
BOYS, BOYS! WE'RE BEING A MITE QUICK WITH THE TRIGGER FINGERS, AREN'T WE?
RAT TAT TAT
MY SUPER-SENSITIVE HEARING'S PICKED UP PULSE RATES, BUT THEY'RE SURPRISINGLY STEADY.
THESE GUYS AREN'T SCARED OF ME!
AFTER ALL, I MIGHT BE JUST WORKING MY WAY THROUGH SUPER HERO COLLEGE SELLING ENCYCLOPEDIAS.
HE'S HALF-TRAINED-- FASTER THAN I EXPECTED.
YOU KNOW WHAT'S THE BEST PART OF THIS JOB, WISE GUY?
MIGHT AS WELL MOSEY RIGHT IN AND FIND OUT WHAT THESE GUYS ARE MADE OF...
IT'S GETTING THE CHANCE TO SHUT UP SMART-MOUTHED IDIOTS LIKE YOU!


:UUGGHH!:
NOW THEY'RE PRESSING THEIR LUCK.
THESE GUYS ARE GOOD--EVEN BETTER THAN I REALIZED--BUT I'VE GONE TOE-TO-TOE WITH THE KINGPIN, THE SUB-MARINER, EVEN THE HULK!
CALL IT HUBRIS, BUT I COULDN'T SHOW MY FACE IN THIS TOWN AGAIN IF I LET FEATHERWEIGHTS GET THE BEST OF ME.
AARGH!
POW
AGH! THAT, DID YOU? EVEN THROUGH YOUR BULLETPROOF VEST?
WELL, IF YOU'RE GOING TO STAY IN THIS LINE OF WORK...
...YOU'LL HAVE TO LEARN TO TAKE IT AS WELL AS DISH IT OUT!
WAK

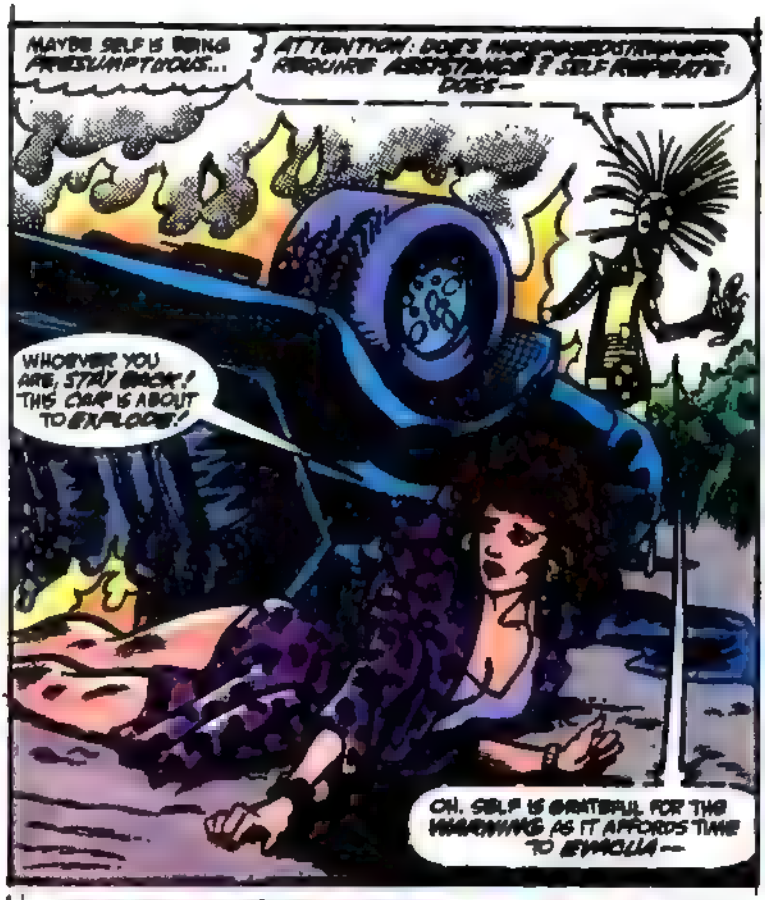
BEHIND ME! I CAN HEAR THE INTAKE OF A BREATH...!
ZINNNG
AAAACCK!
YA...YA GOT ME, COPPER! EVERYTHING'S TURNIN' BLACK!
HOLD IT! GET AWAY FROM THE LEDGE! I DON'T WANT TO SHOOT AGAIN!
NO! STAY BACK! YOU'LL NEVER TAKE ME ALIVE!
HOLY--! HE'S GOING OVER THE EDGE!
CAN'T SEE THE STREET THROUGH THE HAZE--TOO HIGH UP. BUT NO ONE COULD'VE SURVIVED THAT FALL
GOTTA RADIO THIS INTO THE BOSS!
THAT'S RIGHT! HE MUST'VE SPLATTERED OVER THE ENTIRE BLOCK!
YOU SHOULD NEVER TURN YOUR BACK ON A CORPSE!
HOLY--! I SAW YA GO OVER! YOU'RE NOT HUMAN!
YOU DON'T WATCH MANY HORROR MOVIES, DO YOU?
RIGHT! I'M A DEVIL!
POOM


HMMMM... CAN'T FIND ANY KEYS ON HIM. OH, WELL...
THERE'S MORE THAN ONE WAY TO SKIN AN OLD CLICHÉ.
BAROOM
PHEW! THIS RIFLE COULD STOP A HERD OF BULL ELEPHANTS! LOOKS LIKE THAT DOOR WAS MADE OF SOLID STEEL.
CHANCES ARE I HAD JUST SET OFF A DOZEN SECURITY ALARMS, BUT I HAD ALREADY LOST THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE WHEN THE GUARD HAD RADIOED HIS BOSS.
THE SUSPICION BECAME CERTAINTY...
...WHEN A DOOR SWUNG OPEN OF ITS OWN VOLITION..
...TWO YARDS IN FRONT OF ME...
AND A WISPY HIGH-PITCHED VOICE REACHED OUT TO GREET ME.
DON'T BE SHY, DAREDEVIL. COME OUT OF THAT NASTY STAIRWELL...
...INTO THE LIGHT WHERE I CAN SEE YOU BETTER
YOU'RE THE FIRST SUPER HERO I'VE EVER MET, YOU KNOW.
SHE COULDN'T HAVE BEEN OLDER THAN NINETEEN, ABOUT FIVE FOOT TWO IN HEIGHT DWARFED BY THE IMMENSITY OF THE CORPORATE OFFICE SHE ALONE OCCUPIED.
SEEING A MAN IN THE FLESH IS ALWAYS MORE SATISFYING THAN ON A VIDEO SCREEN.
AND, YES IN ANTICIPATION OF YOUR QUESTION, I OWN THE CONTROLLING INTEREST IN OCTAGON. A PRESENT FROM MY DADDY, SHORTLY BEFORE HIS ANNIHILATION.
I AM, IN EFFECT, THE ASSISTANT, SO IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS AS TO OUR PRACTICES OR POLICIES, YOU SHOULD ADDRESS THEM TO ME.

LOOK, MR PINKWATER, I DON'T KNOW IF THIS IS A GAG, BUT CONSIDER MY VISIT HERE A WARNING.
YOUR COMPANY'S BEEN OPERATING IN THE SHADOWS FOR YEARS. IF YOUR PEOPLE DON'T START OPENING UP...
ARE YOU READY TO MAKE ANY SPECIFIC ALLEGATIONS?
I HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE OCTAGON IS PARTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR CONDUCTING LAB EXPERIMENTS THAT LED TO THIS SUMMER'S EPIDEMIC OF [redacted]...
REALLY? AND WHERE DID YOU GET YOUR INFORMATION?
ONE OF YOUR RESEARCHERS MADE CONTACT WITH ME LAST NIGHT--
WHAT? ELLINGTON! THAT MUST HAVE BEEN ELLINGTON! WHERE IS HE? I'VE GOT TO KNOW!
YOU LET HIM GET AWAY! YOU FOOL! DON'T YOU REALIZE WHO HE IS?
TRUTH IS, I DON'T KNOW. HE ESCAPED WHEN--
SHE REACHED OVER TO A CONSOLE ON HER DESK AND HIT A BUTTON. A FAMILIAR VOICE FILLED THE ROOM.
I HADN'T MADE THE CONNECTION... MAYBE BECAUSE THE TRANSMITTER SIGNAL WAS ALWAYS SO WEAK.
BUT IT WAS CLEAR NOW, AS A TAPE OF HIS VOICE FILLED THE ROOM.
AND THIS IS TRAVIS T. AMOS SIGNING OFF FOR THE NIGHT.
ELLINGTON'S MASQUERADING AS THAT LUNATIC D.J.! HE'S A PUBLIC MENACE!
BUT EVERY TIME WE PINPOINT HIS TRANSMITTER, HE VANISHES AS IF HE ANTICIPATED OUR MOVEMENTS.
I WANT HIM, DAREDEVIL.


HE'S GOT RESEARCH FINDINGS THAT ARE RIGHTFULLY MINE! WITH YOUR HELP, I KNOW WE COULD LOCATE HIM.
YOU, LITTLE IDIOT! INDIRECTLY, YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR THREE DEATHS ALREADY! I CAME HERE HOPING TO FIND SOMEONE I COULD REASON WITH...
DIDN'T YOU KNOW? I'M RENOWNED FOR TAKING RISKS.
HOW DARE YOU...!
I'D EVEN BE WILLING TO FORGET YOUR THREATS AGAINST MY COMPANY WHO KNOWS? WE MIGHT EVEN GET TO BE FRIENDS.
I'LL FIND ELLINGTON, NOT FOR YOU OR FOR OCTAGON, BUT BECAUSE HE COULD BE A THREAT TO INNOCENT LIVES.
YOU'RE THROUGH, DAREDEVIL. WHEN DADDY HEARS--
SHE CURSED AND SHE THREATENED AS I LEFT, BUT I WASN'T LISTENING AT THAT POINT
YOUR FATHER SHOULD BE INSTITUTIONALIZED FOR GIVING CONTROL OF THIS COMPANY TO A CHILD LIKE YOU!
SOMEWHERE IN THE CITY A MAN WITH A HEADFUL OF UNTESTED, PSYCHOACTIVE DRUGS WAS BEHIND A MICROPHONE.
...IMPLORING HIS FOLLOWERS TO JOIN EN MASSE THE NEXT MORNING FOR SOME UNSPECIFIED EVENT.
I THOUGHT OF THE RIOTS IN THE SUMMER OF '68-- IN CHICAGO, IN WATTS... IN HARLEM.
"OHHHH STORM IS THREATENING/MY VERY LIFE TODAY IF I CAN'T GET SOME SHELTER, I'M GONNA FADE AWAY."
OUTSIDE, AT 9:00 P.M., IT WAS STILL 99°. ANY HOTTER, THE CITY WOULD EXPLODE.
"WAR, CHILDREN, IT'S JUST A SHOT AWAY/ JUST A SHOT AWAY..."
CONCLUDES NEXT ISSUE..

"Warlock"
"FLESHTONES!"
HE IS THIS NEW MUTANT WARLOCK. AS SUPER HEROES GO HE WOULD MAKE A GOOD WAITER!
Welcome to HIGHLAND PLAINS HOME OF AMERICA'S LARGEST TAR PITS
EXCLAMATION: WOW!
SHE IS PATTY KURLYCHEK, SECRET AGENT. RIGHT NOW, SHE IS A DAMSEL IN DISTRESS.
CONFLICT: NEWMUTANT TEAMMATES INSTRUCTED SELF TO AVOID DETECTION, YET INDISPOSED-STRANGER IS IN PERIL!


MAYBE SELF IS BEING PRESUMPTUOUS...
ATTENTION: DOES ANYONE/STRANGER REQUIRE ASSISTANCE? SELF REPEATS: DOES--
WHOEVER YOU ARE, STAY BACK! THIS CAR IS ABOUT TO EXPLODE!
OH. SELF IS GRATEFUL FOR THE WARNING AS IT AFFORDS TIME TO EVACUATE--

EXPLODE!

BA-WRA
BABOOM
PLEASE FORGIVE SELF FOR NOT STAY-BACKING.
I'LL GET OVER IT.

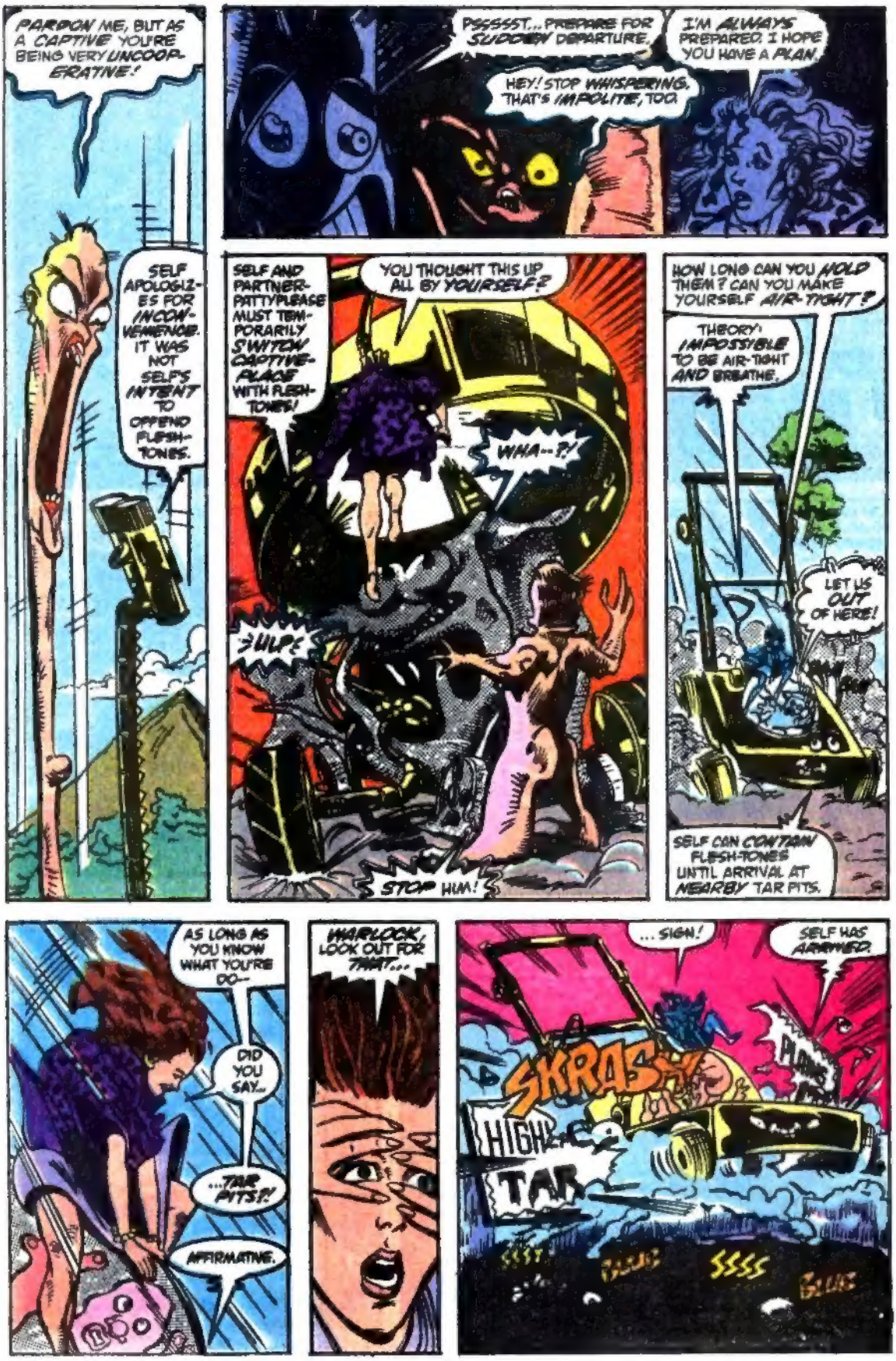
I'M PATTY KURLYCHECK OF THE F.B.I. THANK YOU FOR SAVING MY LIFE.
HELLO PATTYKURLYCHECK OF THE F.B.I. SELF IS DESIGNATE WARLOCK OF THE N.E W.M.U.--
NEW MUTANTS, I'VE READ YOUR FILE. AND JUST CALL ME PATTY. PLEASE.
AFFIRMATIVE. PATTYPLEASE.
CLOSE ENOUGH.

DESTINATION · MED-CENTER HOSPITAL-CAREPLACE TO ATTEND TO PATTY-PLEASE'S INJURIES.
I APPRECIATE THAT-- BUT I WAS PURSUING A TRIO OF RENEGADE SCIENTISTS WHEN OUR CARS CRASHED AND THEY ESCAPED.
THEY MAY HAVE ALREADY INJECTED THEMSELVES WITH THEIR ILLEGAL BIO-TOXIN. IF IT'S HALF AS EFFECTIVE AS THEY THEO-RIZED...
WARLOCK, I'M IN NO CONDITION TO TRACK THESE MEN DOWN ON MY OWN. IF THEY GET AWAY--
IS PATTYPLEASE SUGGESTING A PARTNERSHIP?!
IF YOU WEREN'T A SUPER HERO, I WOULDN'T EVEN HAVE BROUGHT IT UP. HONEST!
MMMM... SELF'S SECRET IS ALREADY COMPROMISED..
YOU SHOULD KNOW UP FRONT, THESE PEOPLE ARE DANGEROUS.
"DANGER" IS WARDANGER-LOCK'S MIDDLE-DESIGNATE! QUERY: WHEN DO WE START?!
YEOW!
MY LEGS-- I MUST HAVE HURT THEM WORSE THAN I THOUGHT!
DON'T WORRY BE-HAPPY! SELF WILL PROVIDE A MODE OF TRANSPORT FOR PARTNER PATTYPLEASE.
OFNNF! YOU COULDN'T HAVE TRANSFORMED INTO A PORSCHE?
A FRONT PORSCHE OR A BACK PORSCHE?
NEVER MIND.

HAVEN'T YOU EVER HEARD OF SHOCK ABSORBERS?
ALERT, ALERT! SOMETHING STRANGE IS AFOOT!
REPHRASE: THIS ROOT IS SOMETHING STRANGE!
GASP! THE MUTATIONS MUST HAVE STARTED!
AFFIRMATIVE! QUERY: WHAT MUTATIONS?
THE EXPERIMENTS THAT DRS. MASON, MOORE, AND MOIST WERE CONDUCTING WOULD ALLOW THEM COMPLETE CONTROL OVER THEIR EVERY MOLECULE!
NO MAJOR TRANSACTION SELF CONTROLS OWN EVERY MOLECULES EVERY DAY
JAR
THEY'RE PROBABLY SIMILAR TO YOU, ONLY IN FLESH TONES.
FLESH TONES?" WE LIKE THE SOUND OF THAT!
YEEUCCH! (IS SELF THAT UGLY?)
THIS IS WORSE THAN I THOUGHT! THEY'RE ALL HORRIBLY MUTATED!
"HORRIBLY?" THAT'S A BIT STRONG

THE GOVERNMENT HAD NO RIGHT TO STOP FUNDING OUR EXPERIMENTS! OUR MEDICAL ADVANCES CAN REVOLUTIONIZE CONVENTIONAL WARFARE!
YOU PEOPLE ARE INSANE!
WELL, OKAY... THERE'S THAT.
OBSERVATION FLESHTONE IS IN NEED OF SUBMISSION!
BE CAREFUL, WARLOCK! WHILE THEY'RE EXPOSED TO AIR, THEY CAN TRANSFORM THEIR BODIES INTO ANY-THING THEY CAN IMAGINE!
THWAP
DR. MOORE! DOCTOR MOST! HELP ME!
WA-FARA-
ROOM
WE ARE THE FLESH TONES!
STAY OUT OF OUR WAY OR DIE!
PARTNER, ARE YOU OKAY?
HONEST REPLY NO.
FRWUMP
SEE HOW POWERLESS YOU ARE BEFORE US?
IT'S NOT AS IF THEY'RE THE AVENGERS,
OR EVEN THE DEFENDERS!
QUERY: WILL THEY TERMINATE SELF'S LIFE PROCESSES?
NOT IF I CAN HELP IT!

EAT HOT LEAD, YOU PERCH-FACED GUMBYT!
OBSERVATION: GUNFIRE IS INEFFECT-
YEAH, I NOTICED.
GOOD WORK, DR. MOORE--
YOU ARE DR. MOORE!
SO I AM... GOOD WORK ANYWAY! LET US RETURN TO OUR LAB AND CONTINUE OUR WORK!
PARTNER!!!TYPLEASE... ARE WE CAPTURED!?
IT LOOKS THAT WAY FROM IN HERE.
THEORY: SELF WOULD NOT MAKE A GOOD AT&T AGENT.
IT WAS ANY FAULT-- I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULD BE TRASHED AND PERTINERED!
QUERY! IS [illegible] A PEJNTIVE ACTION?
I GUESS YOU COULD SAY THAT.
HMMMMMM... EXCUSE SELF...
ESTIMATION: 1.6 MILES + DIRECTION: DUE EAST- ESTIMATION FOR CONFRONTATION = E.T.A.: 86 SECONDS!
HEY!
THAT'S CLOSE!
WARLOCK--!!


PARDON ME, BUT AS A CAPTIVE YOU'RE BEING VERY UNCOOPERATIVE!
SELF APOLOGIZES FOR INCONVENIENCE. IT WAS NOT SELF'S INTENT TO OFFEND FLESH-TONES.
PSSSSST... PREPARE FOR SUDDEN DEPARTURE.
I'M ALWAYS PREPARED. I HOPE YOU HAVE A PLAN.
HEY! STOP WHISPERING. THAT'S IMPOLITE, TOO.
SELF AND PARTNER-PATTYPLEASE MUST TEMPORARILY SWITCH CAPTIVE-PLACE WITH FLESH-TONES!
YOU THOUGHT THIS UP ALL BY YOURSELF?
WHA--?!
>HLP<
STOP HIM!
HOW LONG CAN YOU HOLD THEM? CAN YOU MAKE YOURSELF AIR-TIGHT?
THEORY: IMPOSSIBLE TO BE AIR-TIGHT AND BREATHE.
LET US OUT OF HERE!
SELF CAN CONTAIN FLESH-TONES UNTIL ARRIVAL AT NEARBY TAR PITS.
AS LONG AS YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DO--
DID YOU SAY...
...TAR PITS?!
AFFIRMATIVE.
WARLOCK, LOOK OUT FOR THAT...
...SIGH!
SELF HAS ARRIVED.
SKRASH
HIGH
TAR
SSSS
SSSS

PARTNER, YOU'RE A GENIUS!
CONCLUSION: ERRONEOUS WITH PREVIOUS SELF-EVALUATIONS.
BLUB
BULUB
BUB
THE NEAREST CHICKEN FARM SHOULD PRODUCE THE NECESSARY NUMBER OF FEATHERS FOR--
ARE YOU CRAZY?! "TAR AND FEATHER" IS ONLY AN EXPRESSION! GET BACK THERE...
...NOW!
THEY ARE... RETURNING. LET... US ATTACK.
BUT, DR. MASON, WITHOUT CONTACT WITH AIR...
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO MOVE! KEEP IT UP, WARLOCK... THE TAR SHOULD HARDEN JUST ENOUGH TO KEEP THEM COMPLETELY IMMOBILE!
WHIRRRRRRRRRRR
WE... CAN'T... MOVE.
WE ARE... DEFEATED.
WE DID IT! YOU AND ME--WE SAVED THE WORLD!
IS PARTNERPATTYPLEASE PLEASED?
PARTNERPATTYPLEASE IS VERY PLEASED, PARTNER! IF YOU EVER GET TIRED OF THE NEW MUTANTS...
...GIVE ME A HOLLER.
PARTNERPATTYPLEASE!
I MEANT ON THE TELEPHONE.
FBI
Federal Bureau of Investigation
PATTY HURTCHER
WEOWEOWEOWEO
END.

Warlock
OF THE NEW
MUTANTS
VS.
THE ALL-NEW
ALL-WEIRD
FLESHTONES!
AS NEW YORK
FALLS APART,
DAREDEVIL
STRUGGLES
TO SAVE
HIS CITY!
TO SAVE HER
JUNGLE
SHANNA
THE
SHE-DEVIL
MUST SURVIVE
ITS PERILS!
50
YEARS
OF
CAPTAIN AMERICA
1941 – 1991